

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:)
)
ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES TO) Administrative Order
ELECTION CHALLENGES) No. 2025 - 64
FILED IN THE SUPERIOR COURT)
IN PIMA COUNTY)
_____)

The Superior Court in Pima County seeks approval of a proposed procedure for the assignment of election challenge cases. Election challenges are to be heard on an accelerated schedule to ensure compliance with statutory timeframes. The Superior Court proposed a procedure that accounts for judicial availability in the assignment of a judge in a blind manner. Approval of the procedure facilitates the timely adjudication of these cases.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution and A.R.S. § 12-137,

IT IS ORDERED approving the assignment of election challenge cases filed in the Superior Court in Pima County as detailed in the procedure attached.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2025.

FOR THE COURT:

ANN A. SCOTT TIMMER
Chief Justice

TO: CHIEF JUSTICE ANN TIMMER

FROM: JUDGE DANELLE LIWSKI, PIMA COUNTY PRESIDING JUDGE

RE: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROCEDURE OF ASSIGNMENT OF ALL ELECTION CHALLENGE CASES PER A.R.S. §12-137

The Pima County Superior Court seeks to adopt a procedure for the assignment of any election challenges to ensure hearings in these matters are set, heard and decided in a timely manner. To that end, the Pima County Superior Court seeks approval of the following method of assigning these cases in every election cycle.

Emergency Matters or Judge Unavailability – Must be Blind and May Account for Availability—
Approved by the Supreme Court Pursuant A.R.S. § 12-137

Election Related Challenges

Nomination challenges, recounts, and election contests have statutory deadlines and must be resolved on an expedited basis. To ensure compliance with the statutory timeframes, before the filing deadline, the Court prepopulates a master calendar of available civil trial judges to conduct the accelerated petition hearings. When filed on identified predetermined dates, the cases are assigned a hearing time and date. The predetermined dates are identified with each election cycle. The Civil Bench Presiding Judge randomly assigns the case to a judge identified as available on a master calendar. This system is designed to ensure that judges are available to handle each of these highly accelerated cases within the statutory periods.

Election Day Emergency Coverage

The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in Pima County selects Election Day Emergency Coverage Judge(s) for each election day. To select the Election Day Emergency Coverage Judge(s), the Presiding Judge selects the Election Day Coverage Judge(s) by lot in a drawing from the names of available civil trial judges.